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JAPANESE TREE PEONY—CULTURE

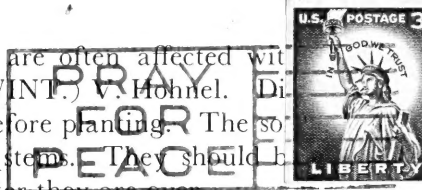
When you go to the art museum and happen to see ancient art objects of China or Japan, you might often note designs of Tree Peony depicted on them, which will tell you how the people of these countries loved tree peonies from old. Really old Chinese conferred on this plant an honorable title, "the King of Flowers" and had appreciated its beauty as garden plant as far back as Tang Dynasty (618-907). It was in ninth century when O Yo Shu, a celebrated poet of Sung Dynasty (960-1279), listed in one of his prosaic works, names of 31 varieties, which included yellow ones which even today are much sought after and so highly valued by all horticulturists, not to mention of ordinary carmine, scarlet, purple, white ones. Now it will not sound unbelievable to tell you that Japan has such old tree peonies as are living on over 150 or 200 years, reaching more than 10 ft. in height.

The cult of tree peony is said to have been introduced from China before fifteenth century into Japan where incessant efforts were made by Japanese for over 4 centuries to evolve more than 250 varieties making Japan the sole and richest source of this gorgeous plant in the world now.

SOIL AND PLANTING. Almost any soil will do but the best suited is well drained loam or sandy loam, which is cultivated deep and made soft and open. About one week before preparing ground, broadcast lime all over the ground and mix well into the soil. Dig drills, which are made 3 feet apart, 8-12 inches deep and put stable manure in the bottom. Then cover it with some complete garden fertilizer and mix all well. The best season for planting is from September until November. Plant the newly grafted stock up on the drills 8-9 inches apart, one to two years old plants 1½ feet, 3 years or more old 2 feet, at such depth as the grafted part just showing above the ground level. One month after planting apply liquid plant food once, and again just when buds start growing the next spring. Too much of nitrogen fertilizer will result in poor flowers, rampant growth of leaves, stems and make plants liable to attack of diseases. Feeding with good application of phosphatic potassium is recommended.

CARE AFTER FLOWER. Always keep plants and bed free from withered flower petals as these will cause the attack of diseases and also pick off all seeds before they ripe. In the beginning of September, cut off well ripen branches, leaving lower 2-3 buds to make side shoots start, which will bear a flower on each stem. Also cut off leaves one inch to the stem to force starting of shoots.

CONTROL OF DISEASE AND INSECT PEST. Roots are often affected with Hypochytrium centrifugus (LEV.) T. L. or Cercospora inconspicua (WINT.) V. Mohr. Disinfect in kerosene emulsion or lime sulphur of 0.3° strength for 5 minutes before planting. The soil itself should be disinfected. Several diseases will attack leaves and stems. They should be sprayed with Bordeaux mixture once before flowers open and twice after they are over.



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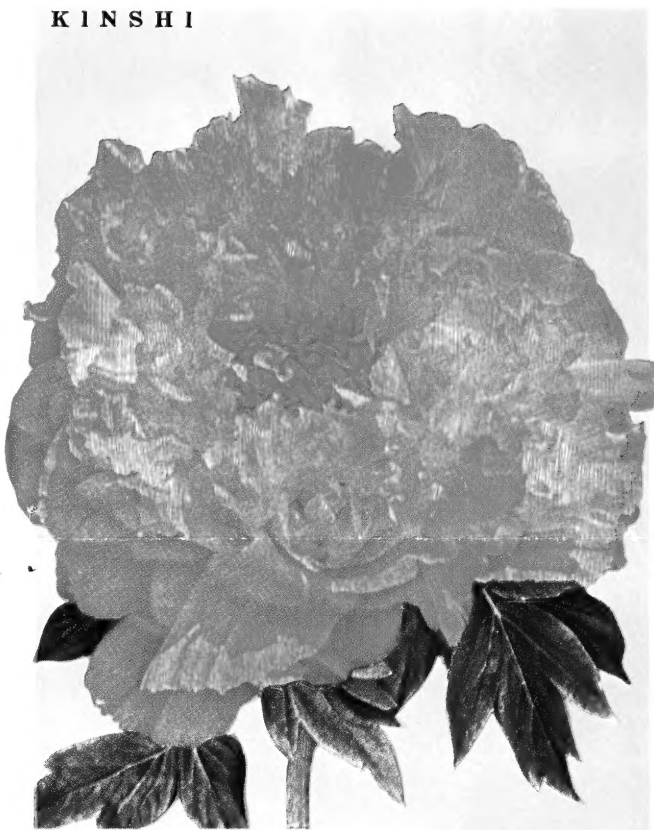
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GIANT TREE PEONY VARIETIES

For exhibition and garden display, colors ranging from white to dark purple, pink, rose, carmine, crimson, scarlet, yellow, lavender.

- Akashijishi**, very large double, rose, deeper in center, cup shaped.
- Asahi-no-sora**, double, light carmine, reddish purple in center.
- Benichidori**, pink, deeper in center, double.
- Bifukumon**, deep crimson, center white, full double.
- Daigokuden**, glittering white, large double.
- Dantenmon**, light pink, giant double.
- Esugata**, lavender red, shaded off toward tip of petals, double.
- Fuji-no-mine**, white, center purplish carmine, large double.
- Fusotsukasa**, snow white, very large full double of globular form.
- Genkimon**, cream white, center suffused crimson.
- Godaishu**, snow white, large double.
- Goshozakura**, light carmine, large full double.
- Hakubanryu**, pure white, nearly full double, irregularly cut petals.
- Hakuojishi**, snow white, double.
- Hanadaijin**, large purple, semi-double.
- Hanakiso**, light crimson, tipped pink, giant full double.
- Hatsuhinode**, white shaded pink in center, large double.
- Higurashi**, vivid crimson, large semi-double.
- Hodai**, carmine, large double.
- Horaisan**, flesh color, nearly full double, cupshaped, large.
- Ikuhomon**, snow white, large double.
- Imashojo**, bright purplish carmine of enormous size, double.
- Jitsugetsu-nishiki**, purplish red tipped white, large double.
- Kamatafuji**, full double, rosy purple.
- Kamata-nishiki**, purplish rose, tipped and margined pink and striped, giant double.
- Kamikaze**, sport of GESSEKAI, giant full double white.
- Kenreimon**, large double, purplish rose.
- Kinshi**, golden yellow, orange red in center, strongly scented.
- Kirin-nishiki**, deep rose with irregularly cut petals, double.
- Kirin-tsukasa**, carmine, deep in center, nearly full double.
- Kokamon**, maroon, center white, full double.
- Kokkotsukasa**, glowing dark red striped white on outer petals, large full double.
- Kumagaya**, purplish red, full double.
- Kumoisaka**, maroon, four or five petals.
- Miyo-no-hikari**, full double, deep vermilion.
- Miyuki-nishiki**, large double red.
- Nipponbeni**, light rose shading light purple, very double.
- Nishikijima**, light rose shaded purple with beautiful stripes, large double.
- Nishiki-no-tsuya**, full double carmine, deeper in center, large globular form.
- Okinajishi**, large full double white with irregularly cut petals.
- Otenmon**, pink, brushed purple in center, large double.
- Ranzan**, pink of full double globular form.
- Rinpo**, very large, deep purple of full double.
- Ruriban**, glowing deep purple, large full double.
- Ryokimon**, maroon, outer petals striped white, full double.
- Saigyozaakura**, deep cerise carmine, nearly full double.
- Sakurajishi**, large full double, rose-pink with cut petals.
- Senshumon**, deep crimson, large full double.
- Senyomon**, light crimson, large full double with long stem.
- Shikoden**, glittering purple with broader outer petals, double.
- Shintench**, very large, cerise of semi-double.
- Shogomon**, white, long stem, good for forcing, double.
- Shukiden**, deep carmine, tipped pink, irregular cut petals.
- Suigan**, light pink, shaded purplish carmine in center, large double.
- Taisho-no-hikari**, large double, bright crimson, tipped white.
- Taisho-no-hokori**, purple striped white, gorgeous full double.
- Tamafuyo**, full double light pink, early bloomer.
- Taiheiraku**, bright deep carmine, substantial full double.
- Teikan**, carmine, double large.
- Ubatama**, darkest blackish purple, double.
- Yachiyojishi**, globular form flower light carmine, large full double.
- Yachiyo-subaki**, light rose, deeper in center, nearly full double.
- Yaezakura**, cerise, large full double.

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